



“Let’s Walk in Light & Love ” Small Group Discussion Guide

In this message, Pastor Todd explores Ephesians 5:1-20, focusing on how Christians should live as followers of Christ. He emphasizes that Paul's instructions are not about earning salvation but rather about living out our identity as children of God - the fruit of being God's children, not the root of becoming God's children. The sermon breaks down three key aspects of Christian living: walking in love as Christ loved us, walking in light rather than darkness, and walking in wisdom by being filled with the Holy Spirit daily.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Just as Paul encouraged the Ephesians to walk in love and light, guide our conversation today. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit as we examine our own lives and choices. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with each other about the areas where we need Your transformation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Questions

- What's one rule or expectation from your childhood home that seemed really important at the time but makes you laugh now?
- Pastor Todd mentioned that Paul's instructions are the 'fruit of being a child of God, not the root of being a child of God.' What's the difference, and why is this distinction important?
- In Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul calls us to 'walk in love, as Christ loved us.' What does it look like practically to imitate God's love in your daily interactions?
- The sermon mentioned that gratitude is our antidote to making poor choices. How has thankfulness helped you make better decisions in your life?
- Paul warns about being 'deceived with empty words' (verse 6). What are some ways our culture tries to rationalize or minimize sin today?
- In verse 10, Paul encourages us to 'try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.' What practices help you discern God's will when facing difficult choices?
- How do you respond to the instruction to 'expose the unfruitful works of darkness' (verse 11)? What does this look like in your life?
- Pastor Todd emphasized the importance of being filled with the Spirit daily. What difference do you notice in your life when you're intentionally seeking the Spirit's guidance versus when you're not?
- What's one area of your life where you need to more consistently 'walk as children of light' (verse 8)?



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Life Application

This week, commit to starting each day with a simple prayer asking God to fill you with His Spirit and guide your decisions. Pastor Todd suggested: 'Lord, fill me with your Spirit and guide me to follow your lead in every decision I encounter today.' Keep a small journal or note on your phone to record moments when you felt the Spirit's guidance and how it affected your choices. At the end of the week, reflect on how this daily practice impacted your ability to walk in love and light.

Key Takeaways

- Our behavior as Christians should flow from our identity in Christ, not be the basis for it - it's the fruit, not the root of our relationship with God.
- We are called to walk in love, imitating Christ who gave Himself for us, rather than being obsessed with winning as the world is.
- Walking in light means exposing darkness - first in our own lives through self-examination, then in the world around us.
- Discernment isn't passive but requires actively testing and examining our choices against what pleases God.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit daily is essential for walking in love, light, and wisdom in a dark world.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the clear guidance You've given us through Your Word. We confess that too often we've been passive about our choices or easily swayed by the world's rationalizations. Fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit and give us the courage to follow Your lead in every decision we face. Help us to walk in love as You loved us, to shine as light in the darkness, and to make the most of every opportunity in these challenging days. May our lives be marked by gratitude rather than grumbling, by wisdom rather than foolishness, and by Your Spirit rather than the spirit of this age. We pray this in Your powerful name, amen.